

Continuum of Care Program

Promotes community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provides funding for efforts to quickly re-house homeless individuals and families to minimize trauma and dislocation; promotes access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs; and optimizes self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Nature of Program: The Continuum of Care Program competitively awards grants for new construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, leasing, rental assistance, supportive services, and operating costs for housing units; homeless management information systems, project administration costs; and Continuum of Care planning and Unified Funding Agency costs. The HEARTH Act (Division B of Public Law 111-22) consolidated and amended three separate homeless assistance programs into a single grant program. The three consolidated programs are:

Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Program: Under the SRO program, HUD enters into annual contributions contracts (ACCs) with public housing agencies (PHAs) in connection with the moderate rehabilitation of residential properties. These PHAs make Section 8 rental assistance payments to participating landlords on behalf of homeless individuals who rent the rehabilitated dwellings. Owners are compensated for the cost of rehabilitation (as well as the other costs of owning and maintaining the property) through the rental assistance payments. At the same time, each unit must need a minimum of \$3,000 of eligible rehabilitation to qualify for the program.

Current Status: Active. However, no new grants are being awarded. Existing grants are eligible for renewal under Section 8, as authorized by MAHRA. All new grants will be awarded in the Continuum of Care program.

Shelter Plus Care (S+C): Provides rental assistance for homeless people with disabilities, primarily those with serious mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol and/or drugs, and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and related diseases. Rental assistance grants must be matched in the aggregate by supportive services that are equal in value to the amount of rental assistance and appropriate to the needs of the population to be served. Rental assistance is provided through four S+C components: (1) Tenant-based Rental Assistance (TRA) provides rental assistance to homeless persons who choose the housing in which they reside. Residents retain the assistance if they move; (2) Sponsor-based Rental Assistance (SRA) provides rental assistance through contracts between the grant recipient and a private nonprofit sponsor or community mental health agency established as a public nonprofit entity that owns or leases dwelling units in which participants reside; (3) Project-based Rental Assistance (PRA) provides rental assistance to the owner of an existing structure where the owner agrees to lease the units to homeless people. Residents do not take the assistance with them if they move; and (4) Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation for Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Dwellings provides grants for rental assistance.

Current Status: Active. However, no new grants are being awarded. Existing grants are eligible for renewal. All new grants will be awarded in the Continuum of Care program.

Supportive Housing Program: The Supportive Housing program is designed to promote the development of supportive housing and supportive services to assist homeless persons in transitioning from homelessness, and to promote the provision of supportive housing to enable homeless persons to live as independently as possible. Grants under the Supportive Housing Program are awarded through a national competition held annually.

Current Status: Active. However, no new grants are being awarded. Existing grants are eligible for renewal. All new grants will be awarded in the Continuum of Care program.

Applicant Eligibility: Private nonprofit organizations, states, local governments, instrumentalities of state and local governments, and public housing agencies are eligible to apply if they have been selected by the Continuum of Care for the geographic area in which they operate.

Legal Authority: Subtitle C, D, and F of Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381-11389, 11401, 11403, 11381-11389). Regulations are at 24 CFR part 578, 24 CFR part 583, 24 CFR part 882, subpart H.

Administering Office: Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) in the Office of Community Planning and Development, Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20410.

Information Source: Administering office and local HUD field offices.

On the Web:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/homeless